

Class Preparation: Degenerative Disorders Fact Sheet

Briefly define it, state the cause if known, name a few classic S/S you may see in a patient:

1. Amyotrophic Lateral Sclerosis-
-a progressive neurodegenerative disorder that affects motor neurons responsible for controlling voluntary muscles. Cause is unknown, environmental contributing factors or genetics.
S/Sx- fatigue, muscle weakness/cramping/twitching, speech/swallowing difficulties, muscle atrophy, SOB
2. Huntington's Disease
- inherited disease that causes the progressive breakdown of nerve cells in the brain, wide impact on a person's functional abilities in movement, and thinking (cognitive). Caused by a genetic mutation in the HTT gene, leading to the production of abnormal huntingtin protein. This protein buildup damages brain cells.

S/Sx- difficulty concentrating and memory lapses, involuntary jerking (chorea) , rigidity/ muscle contracture (dystonia), problems swallowing, speaking , slow eye movement and impaired equilibrium.
3. Multiple Sclerosis-
A chronic CNS autoimmune disorder, the body attacks itself by attacking the myelin sheath, disrupting communication between the brain, spinal cord, and the rest of the body. This can than cause permanent damage or deterioration of the nerve fibers. The cause is unknown, combination of genetic, environmental and immunological factors.

S/Sx- can vary form patient to patient, someone can have mild symptoms or severe where they can not walk at all or do ADLs : numbness, weakness, tingling, lack of coordination, unsteady gait or inability to walk, partial/complete loss of vision, blurry vision, fatigue, slurred speech,
4. Myasthenia Gravis-
a chronic autoimmune disorder in which antibodies destroy the communication between nerves and muscle, resulting in weakness of the skeletal muscles. Its is caused by a problem with the signals sent between the nerves and the muscles

S/Sx- droopy eyelids, double vision, difficulty making facial expressions. Problems chewing/swallowing, slurred speech, SOB and weak arms, neck and legs.
5. Parkinson's Disease –
a brain disorder that causes unintended or uncontrollable movements, such as shaking, stiffness, and difficulty with balance and coordination

S/Sx- begin gradually and worsen overtime. 9tremors in hands, arms, legs and head. Muscle stiffness, remains contracted for long period of time, slowed movements, impaired equilibrium.